
Manner: SUICIDE

Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries. In 2001 in King County, there were 183 suicides, accounting for 11.6% (183/1,578) of the deaths investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Forty-six percent (85/183) of the 2001 suicidal deaths resulted from the use of firearms. The number of gunshot suicides (85) in 2001 is a slight decrease from 2000 when there were 87 gunshot suicides and a much greater decrease from 1999 when there were 106 gunshot suicides. Hanging accounted for 21% (38/183) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 5.5% (10/183). Drugs and poisons accounted for 11% (20/183) of all suicides while carbon monoxide caused death in 5% (9/183) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons."

Blood alcohol tests were performed in 95% (173/183) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 29% (51/173) of cases tested.

Suicides in the age group sixty years and older, represented 17.5% (32/183) of all suicides in 2001. As in other age groups, firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for those 60 years and older (17 in 2001). In 2001 there were 4 deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by older adults.

In 2001 there were 13 suicides among persons 19 years and younger (7% of all suicides), which is a slight increase compared to 11 suicides among this age group in 2000. Firearms were the primary method of death (46%, 6/13) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger. In 2001, there was one suicide attributed to drugs and/or poisons among youths 19 years and younger.

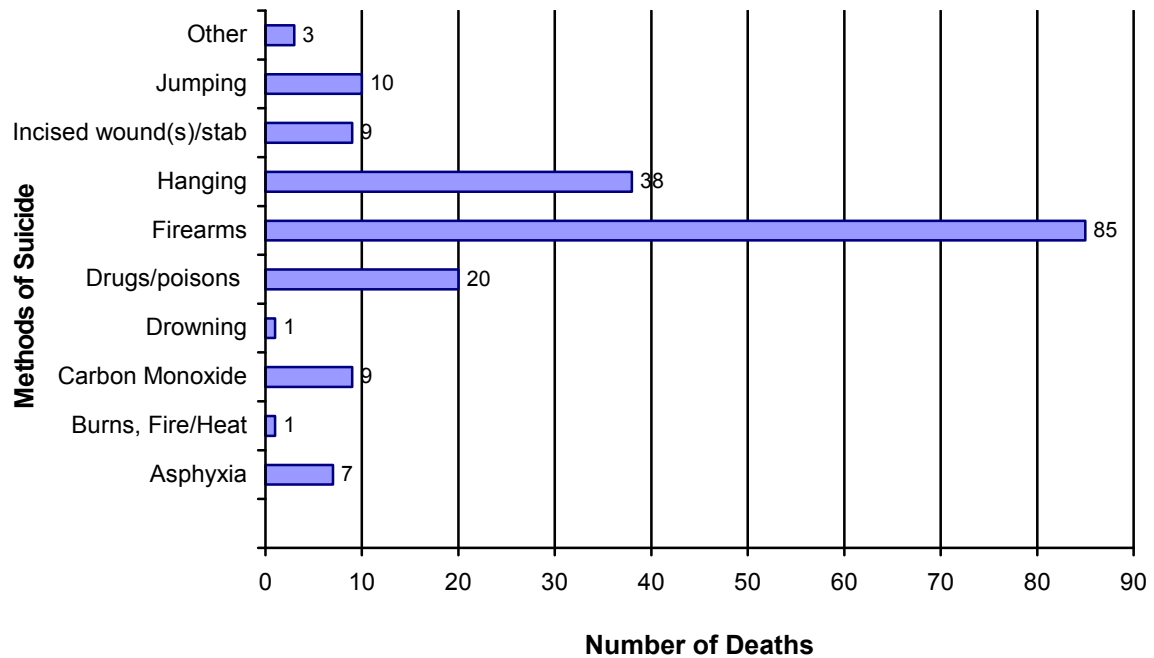
Graph 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods in 2001

Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods and Race of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia	7	0	0	0	0		7
<i>Male</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Carbon Monoxide	8	0	0	1	0		9
<i>Male</i>	7	0	0	1	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drowning	0	0	1	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs/poisons	18	2	0	0	0		20
<i>Male</i>	10	2	0	0	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	8	0	0	0	0	8	
Firearms	77	0	6	2	0		85
<i>Male</i>	69	0	6	1	0	76	
<i>Female</i>	8	0	0	1	0	9	
Hanging	33	0	5	0	0		38
<i>Male</i>	31	0	2	0	0	33	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	3	0	0	5	
Incised wound(s)/stab	9	0	0	0	0		9
<i>Male</i>	8	0	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	9	1	0	0	0		10
<i>Male</i>	7	1	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Other	3	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	165	3	12	3	0		183
Percent	90%	2%	7%	2%	0%		

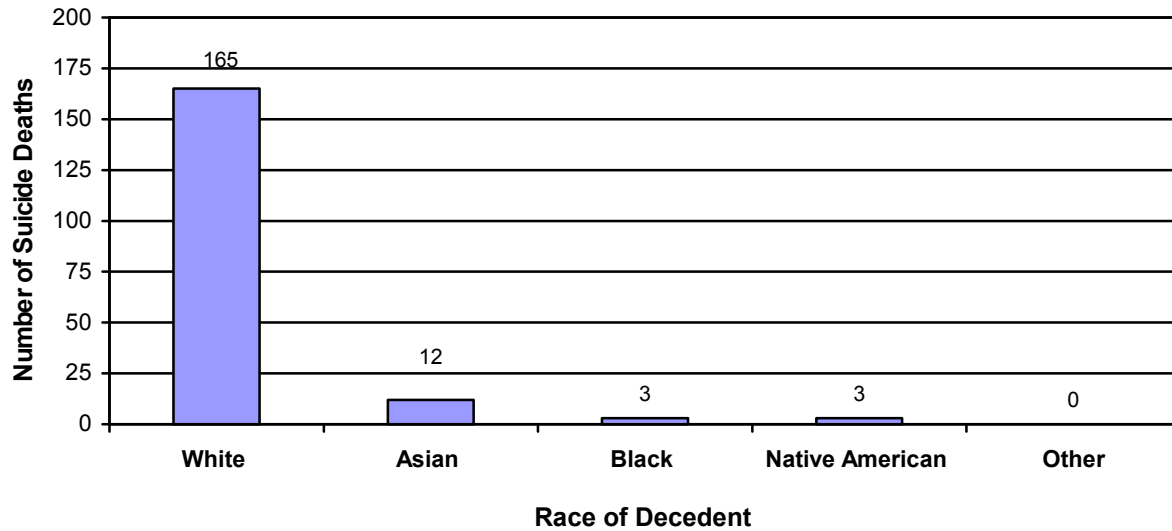
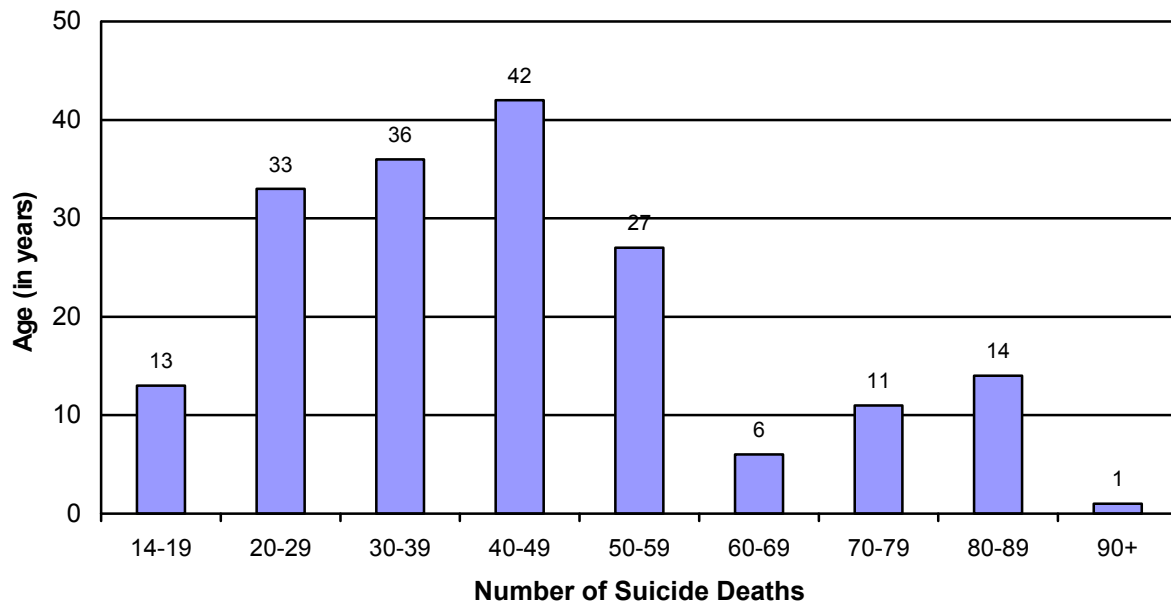
Graph 6-2 Suicidal Deaths and Race of the Decedent**Graph 6-3 Suicidal Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent**

Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods and Age Group of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD / GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)									SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90+		
Asphyxia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	0		7
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Carbon Monoxide	0	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	0		9
Male	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drowning	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs/poisons	1	1	4	7	3	0	2	2	0		20
Male	0	0	3	5	2	0	1	1		12	
Female	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1		8	
Firearms	6	24	13	13	12	4	7	6	0		85
Male	5	21	11	12	12	3	6	6	0	76	
Female	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	9	
Hanging	3	5	11	8	9	0	1	1	0		38
Male	2	4	11	7	7	0	1	1	0	33	
Female	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	0		9
Male	0	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	1		10
Male	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Other	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0		3
Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	13	33	36	42	27	6	11	14	1		183
Percent	7%	18%	20%	23%	15%	3%	6%	8%	1%		

Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods and Gender of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	5	2	7
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	0	1
Carbon Monoxide	8	1	9
Drowning	1	0	1
Drugs/poisons	12	8	20
Firearms	76	9	85
Hanging	33	5	38
Incised wound(s)/stab	8	1	9
Jumping	8	2	10
Other	3	0	3
Total	155	28	183
Percent	85%	15%	

Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods and Marital Status of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	MARITAL STATUS					Sub Total	Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Unknown		
Asphyxia	1	2	2	2	0		7
Male	1	2	1	1	0	5	
Female	0	0	1	1	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	0	0	0	0		1
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Carbon Monoxide	2	4	3	0	0		9
Male	2	3	3	0	0	8	
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Drowning	1	0	0	0	0		1
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drugs/poisons	7	6	5	2	0		20
Male	4	4	3	1	0	12	
Female	3	2	2	1	0	8	
Firearms	34	32	14	4	1		85
Male	30	28	13	4	1	76	
Female	4	4	1	0	0	9	
Hanging	13	15	9	1	0		38
Male	11	12	9	1	0	33	
Female	2	3	0	0	0	5	
Incised wound(s)/stab	4	1	4	0	0		9
Male	4	1	3	0	0	8	
Female	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Jumping	8	0	1	1	0		10
Male	7	0	1	0	0	8	
Female	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Other	1	1	0	1	0		3
Male	1	1	0	1	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	72	61	38	11	1		183
Percent	39%	33%	21%	6%	1%		

Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	0	6	1	7
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	1	0	1
Carbon Monoxide	7	2	0	9
Drowning	0	1	0	1
Drugs/poisons	7	13	0	20
Firearms	23	57	5	85
Hanging	14	22	2	38
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	8	1	9
Jumping	0	9	1	10
Other	0	3	0	3
Total	51	122	10	183
Percent	28%	67%	5%	